

What is claimed is:

1 1. An isolated DNA molecule comprising a DNA sequence
2 encoding a polypeptide with a first amino acid sequence
3 selected from the group consisting of the amino acid
4 sequences of the polypeptides MTSP1, MTSP2, MTSP3, MTSP4,
5 MTSP5, MTSP6, MTSP7, MTSP8, MTSP9, MTSP10, MTSP11, MTSP12,
6 MTSP13, MTSP14, MTSP15, MTSP16, MTSP17, MTSP18, MTSP19,
7 MTSP20, MTSP21, MTSP22, MTSP23, MTSP24, MTSP25, MTSP26,
8 MTSP27, MTSP28, MTSP29, MTSP30, MTSP31, MTSP32, MTSP33,
9 MTSP34, MTSP35, MTSP36, MTSP37, MTSP38, MTSP39, MTSP40,
10 MTSP41, MTSP42, MTSP43, MTSP44, MTSP45, MTSP46, and MTSP47 as
11 depicted in Fig. 1,

12 or a second amino acid sequence identical to said first
13 amino acid sequence but with conservative substitutions,

14 wherein said polypeptide has *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
15 specific antigenic and immunogenic properties.

1 2. An isolated portion of the DNA molecule of claim 1,
2 said portion encoding a segment of said polypeptide shorter
3 than the full-length polypeptide, said segment having
4 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* specific antigenic and immunogenic
5 properties.

1 3. A vector comprising:
2 (a) the DNA molecule of claim 1; and
3 (b) transcriptional and translational regulatory
4 sequences operationally linked to said DNA sequence, said
5 regulatory sequences allowing for expression of the
6 polypeptide encoded by said DNA sequence in a cell.

1 4. A vector comprising:
2 (a) the DNA molecule of claim 2; and

3 (b) transcriptional and translational regulatory
4 sequences operationally linked to said DNA sequence, said
5 regulatory sequences allowing for expression of the
6 polypeptide encoded by said DNA sequence in a cell.

1 5. A cell transformed with the vector of claim 3.

1 6. A cell transformed with the vector of claim 4.

1 7. A composition comprising the vector of claim 3 and a
2 pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or filler.

1 8. A composition comprising the vector of claim 4 and a
2 pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or filler.

1 9. A composition for use as a DNA vaccine, said
2 composition comprising at least two DNA sequences, each
3 encoding a polypeptide of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
4 complex or a functional segment thereof, said DNA sequences
5 being operationally linked to transcriptional and
6 translational regulatory sequences which allow for expression
7 of each said polypeptide in a cell of a vertebrate,
8 wherein at least one of said DNA sequences is the
9 sequence of claim 1.

1 10. A composition for use as a DNA vaccine, said
2 composition comprising at least two DNA sequences, each
3 encoding a polypeptide of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
4 complex or a functional segment thereof, said DNA sequences
5 being operationally linked to transcriptional and
6 translational regulatory sequences which allow for expression
7 of each said polypeptide in a cell of a vertebrate,
8 wherein at least one of said DNA sequences is the
9 sequence of claim 2.

1 11. An isolated polypeptide with a first amino acid
2 sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences
3 of the polypeptides MTSP1, MTSP2, MTSP3, MTSP4, MTSP5, MTSP6,
4 MTSP7, MTSP8, MTSP9, MTSP10, MTSP11, MTSP12, MTSP13, MTSP14,
5 MTSP15, MTSP16, MTSP17, MTSP18, MTSP19, MTSP20, MTSP21,
6 MTSP22, MTSP23, MTSP24, MTSP25, MTSP26, MTSP27, MTSP28,
7 MTSP29, MTSP30, MTSP31, MTSP32, MTSP33, MTSP34, MTSP35,
8 MTSP36, MTSP37, MTSP38, MTSP39, MTSP40, MTSP41, MTSP42,
9 MTSP43, MTSP44, mtsp45, mtsp46, and MTSP47 as depicted in
10 Fig. 1,

11 or a second amino acid sequence identical to said first
12 amino acid sequence but with conservative substitutions,

13 wherein said polypeptide has *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
14 specific antigenic and immunogenic properties.

1 12. An isolated segment of the polypeptide of claim 11,
2 said segment being shorter than the full-length polypeptide
3 and having *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* specific antigenic and
4 immunogenic properties.

1 13. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim
2 11, or a functional segment thereof, and a pharmaceutically
3 acceptable diluent or filler.

1 14. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim
2 12, or a functional segment thereof, and a pharmaceutically
3 acceptable diluent or filler.

1 15. A composition comprising at least two polypeptides
2 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, or functional
3 segments thereof, wherein at least one of said at least two
4 polypeptides is the sequence of claim 1.

1 16. A composition comprising at least two polypeptides
2 of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, or functional
3 segments thereof, wherein at least one of said at least
4 polypeptides is the segment of claim 2.

1 17. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) administration of the composition of claim 13 to a
3 subject suspected of having or being susceptible to
4 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection; and

5 (b) detecting an immune response in said subject to
6 said composition, as an indication that said subject has or
7 is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 18. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) administration of the composition of claim 14 to a
3 subject suspected of having or being susceptible to
4 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection; and

5 (b) detecting an immune response in said subject to
6 said composition, as an indication that said subject has or
7 is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 19. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) administration of the composition of claim 15 to a
3 subject suspected of having or being susceptible to
4 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection; and

5 (b) detecting an immune response in said subject to
6 said composition as an indication that said subject has or is
7 susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 20. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) administration of the composition of claim 16 to a
3 subject suspected of having or being susceptible to
4 *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection; and

5 (b) detecting an immune response in said subject to
6 said composition as an indication that said subject has or is
7 susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 21. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) providing a population of cells comprising CD4 T
3 lymphocytes from a subject;

4 (b) providing a population of cells comprising antigen
5 presenting cells (APC) expressing a major histocompatibility
6 complex (MHC) class II molecule expressed by said subject;

7 (c) contacting the CD4 lymphocytes of (a) with the APC
8 of (b) in the presence of the polypeptide of claim 1; and

9 (d) determining the ability of said CD4 lymphocytes to
10 respond to said polypeptide, as an indication that said
11 subject has or is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
12 infection.

1 22. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) providing a population of cells comprising CD4 T
3 lymphocytes from a subject;

4 (b) providing a population of cells comprising antigen
5 presenting cells (APC) expressing at least one major
6 histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II molecule expressed
7 by said subject;

8 (c) contacting the CD4 lymphocytes of (a) with the APC
9 of (b) in the presence of the segment of claim 2; and

10 (d) determining the ability of said CD4 lymphocytes to
11 respond to said polypeptide, as an indication that said
12 subject has or is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
13 infection.

1 23. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) providing a population of cells comprising CD4 T
3 lymphocytes from a subject;

4 (b) providing a population of cells comprising antigen
5 presenting cells (APC) expressing at least one major
6 histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II molecule expressed
7 by said subject;

8 (c) contacting the CD4 lymphocytes of (a) with the APC
9 of (b) in the presence of the composition of claim 15; and

10 (d) determining the ability of said CD4 lymphocytes to
11 respond to said polypeptide, as an indication that said
12 subject has or is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
13 infection.

1 24. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) providing a population of cells comprising CD4 T
3 lymphocytes from a subject;

4 (b) providing a population of cells comprising antigen
5 presenting cells (APC) expressing at least one major
6 histocompatibility complex (MHC) class II molecule expressed
7 by said subject;

8 (c) contacting the CD4 lymphocytes of (a) with the APC
9 of (b) in the presence of the composition of claim 16; and

10 (d) determining the ability of said CD4 lymphocytes to
11 respond to said polypeptide, as an indication that said
12 subject has or is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
13 infection.

1 25. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) contacting the polypeptide of claim 11 with a bodily
3 fluid of a subject;

4 (b) detecting the presence of binding of antibody to
5 said polypeptide, as an indication that said subject has or
6 is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 26. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) contacting the segment of claim 12 with a bodily
3 fluid of a subject;

4 (b) detecting the presence of binding of antibody to
5 said polypeptide, as an indication that said subject has or
6 is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 27. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) contacting the composition of claim 15 with a bodily
3 fluid of a subject;

4 (b) detecting the presence of binding of antibody to
5 said composition, as an indication that said subject has or
6 is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 28. A method of diagnosis comprising:

2 (a) contacting the composition of claim 16 with a bodily
3 fluid of a subject;

4 (b) detecting the presence of binding of antibody to
5 said composition, as an indication that said subject has or
6 is susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection.

1 29. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 7 to a subject.

1 30. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 8 to a subject.

1 31. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 9 to a subject.

1 32. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 10 to a subject.

1 33. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 13 to a subject.

1 34. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 14 to a subject.

1 35. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 15 to a subject.

1 36. A method of vaccination comprising administration
2 of the composition of claim 16 to a subject.